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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Approved in M  
2/14/62

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: February 1, 1962

375.42

SUBJECT: Tour d'horizon with the German Ambassador

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Wilhelm G. Grewe, German Embassy  
Mr. George C. McGhee - M  
Mr. Robert M. Brandin - EUR/GER

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Amembassy Bonn  
US Mission Berlin

Professor Grewe, the German Ambassador, called for a brief consultation prior to his return to Bonn. The conversation touched on the subjects mentioned below.

Thompson-Gromyko Talks

Regarding the apparent lack of interest on the part of the USSR in making progress in these talks, the Ambassador said

Mr. McGhee agreed it was a good idea to have negotiations. He thought the Russians might be awaiting our response to the various proposals they had put forward. He expressed the personal view that we should put forth reasonable proposals - e.g., access authority - which would acquire status in world opinion. He also noted Khrushchev had apparently miscalculated the Western reaction to pressure on Berlin and was hesitating because he had given his people the mistaken impression they would be able to get what they wanted without difficulty. The Ambassador

Soviet-West German Relations

The Ambassador said

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Adzhubei Visit and Salinger-Kharlamov Meeting

Mr. McGhee discounted the importance of these developments saying they were concerned with questions of communications.

The Future of Ulbricht

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Possible Recognition of the GDR by India

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Mr. McGhee said we would query our Embassy in New Delhi on the matter.

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General

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General Heusinger

Ambassador Grewe said

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Mr. McGhee said we would give the matter some thought and consult with other countries.

The Ambassador referred to a recent pamphlet issued in Chicago attacking General Heusinger by citing quotes from the Soviet News Agency in the US. He asked whether this was legal under US law. Mr. Brandin agreed to look into this matter.

Punta del Este

Mr. McGhee said press reporting on the conference had been distorted. There was unanimity on the basic issue -- i.e., that the Cuban system is incompatible with the OAS. Differences were mainly juridical, not policy, because there was a real question as to what action this group could take. There was a unanimous agreement on expelling Cuba from the Inter-American Defense Board, but there was a question about the legality of expelling Cuba from the OAS. Mr. McGhee added that the Secretary felt that far-reaching steps had been taken in the conference. Mr. McGhee also noted that there had been no bitterness except for the Cuban delegate who was completely isolated toward the end and left early. Mr. McGhee said some of the delegates had difficult political problems at home and, therefore, could not be pushed too far, but that nevertheless there was a real question as to whether Cuba could be expelled.

Mr. McGhee admitted that we would have preferred to delay the conference in view of budget hearings, but that it was necessary for hemisphere as well as US reasons to go ahead with it. He thought the press had played up the conference a little too much in advance, but that it would give it better treatment now that the Secretary and the Congressional members of the delegation had returned.

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Association

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Association of Neutrals with the Common Market

In response to the Ambassador's question about US views on the association of neutral nations with the Common Market, Mr. McGhee said that it was basically a matter for those countries and the Common Market to work out. He said our position on the dangers of political dilution was well known, but that our final position would depend on developments. He wondered whether the neutrals could not solve the trade problem along the lines we were considering. He said it was not clear that the Rome Treaty really envisaged the association of neutrals, although it did have in mind the Greek problem. He asked the Ambassador about the position of Austria.

The Ambassador said 

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